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NEWS AND NOTES

Professor Bessey has recently estimated the number of species of plants to be about 210,000, of which over 60,000 are fungi.

Mr. L. H. Pennington, instructor at Northwestern University, has been appointed assistant professor of botany at Syracuse University.

A practising physician in Switzerland recently treated a patient who was badly poisoned by eating *Clitocybe geotropa*.

Authors publishing new species in MYCOLOGIA are requested to donate, if possible, specimens or fragments of these species to the New York Botanical Garden.

The mushroom market at Lausanne, Switzerland, opening May 1 and closing December 1, contained during the season of 1909 a total of 106 species, of which 15 were poisonous.

An interesting polypore recently described by Schestunoff in *Hedwigia* as *Bresadolia caucasica*, has been found by Magnus to be only a monstrous form of *Polyporus squamosus* (Huds.) Fries.

Scleroderma Geaster, described and figured in the January number of this journal for 1910, suddenly appeared in great quantities last September on a lawn at Shelter Island, practically covering the ground in many places and destroying most of the grass.

Chemical tests have been employed by the French mycologists Maire and Potron in distinguishing certain species of *Russula*. The pigment is dissolved in boiling water and the effect of acetic acid on the colored solution noted (Bull. Soc. Myc. Fr. 26: 327).

Dr. B. F. Lutman, of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station, visited the Garden on January 3.

Mr. Lars Romell, of Stockholm, Sweden, an authority on fleshy fungi, some time ago made a personal test of the poisonous properties of fresh plants of *Entoloma lividum*, with almost fatal results. He followed this up with a plant of *Amanita muscaria* which had been boiled five minutes in water, and the effect on his system was not noticeable. Such experiments should be made with great caution.

The "Shiitake," an edible mushroom cultivated for centuries in Japan on decaying trunks of oak and hornbeam sprinkled at intervals with rice water, has been found to have several scientific names. Specimens obtained from shops in Japan by the Challenger Expedition in 1875 were named *Agaricus* (*Armillaria*) *edodes* by Berkeley (Jour. Linn. Soc. Bot. 16: 50. 1878), this being the first name applied and the best classification of the species. Specimens obtained in Japan in 1873 were assigned a herbarium name, *Agaricus* (*Pleurotus*) *russaticeps*, by Berkeley, which was published by Cooke (Grevillea 16: 106. 1888) ten years after *A. edodes* was published. Schröter, in *Gartenflora* for 1886, described the same species from dried material as *Collybia Shiitake*; while Hennings, on receiving alcoholic specimens from Shirai, discovered a veil in the younger sporophores and transferred it to the genus *Cortinellus*, changing the name to *Cortinellus Shiitake* (Schröt.) P. Henn. Excellent specimens have been sent to the Garden by Professor Kusano, of Tokyo, during the past year, and others have been bought in the Chinese shops of New York City. The species is a good *Armillaria*, but it resembles *Marasmius* both in appearance and habit of growth.

At the recent Minneapolis Meeting, Dr. C. E. Bessey, Professor of Botany of the University of Nebraska, was elected President of the American Association for the coming year; Dr. F. C. Newcombe, of the University of Michigan, was elected Vice-president of Section G; and Dr. W. G. Farlow, of Harvard Uni-

versity, was elected President of the Botanical Society of America.

Mr. F. J. Veihmeyer, of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, spent several days at the Garden during the holidays, consulting the collections of fungi made by Langlois, Calkins, and others.

In the *Botanical Gazette* for November, 1910, Miss R. H. Lovejoy describes a new genus, *Catathelasma*, and six new species of hymenomycetes collected in the Medicine Bow National Forest, in the Rocky Mountain region of Wyoming. Miss Lovejoy promises to continue her collections in this new and interesting region.

The Fungi of Chile have recently been treated by Spegazzini in a work containing 205 pages and 129 text figures. Of the 326 species and varieties listed, 121 are pyrenomycetes, of which 105 are described as new, and 35 are discomycetes, of which 24 are new. The small number of hymenomycetes, only 15, indicates the almost total lack of information regarding this large and important group.

Volume 3, part 1, of *North American Flora*, comprising 88 pages of text, appeared December 29, 1910. It contains the order Hypocreales, with the families Nectriaceae and Hypocreaceae, by Fred J. Seaver; and the Fimetariales, with the Chaetomiaceae, by Helen L. Palliser, and the Fimetariaceae (Sordariaceae), by David Griffiths and Fred J. Seaver. Some of the species here treated, especially those belonging to the genus *Nectria*, are injurious to cultivated plants, while many of the species of *Cordyceps* live upon and aid in destroying injurious insects.

A number of new species of fungi were recently described by Dr. Chas. F. Fairman (Ann. Myc. 8: 322-332. 1910) under the title "*Fungi Lyndonvillenses novi vel minus cogniti.*"

Dr. C. L. Shear has, upon request, kindly contributed the following note regarding the meeting of the American Phytopathological Society at Minneapolis.

The meeting of the phytopathologists was very well attended. The following officers were elected: President, Professor A. D. Selby, Wooster, Ohio; Vice-president, Dr. R. A. Harper, University of Wisconsin; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. C. L. Shear; Councilmen: Dr. G. P. Clinton and Dr. Erwin F. Smith. The President of the Society, and the Chairman of the Board of Editors, Dr. L. R. Jones, are members *ex officio* of the Council.

The Society approved the recommendation of the Council to publish a Journal to be known as "*Phytopathology*." The first number will appear February 1. The following editorial board was appointed:

Editors: L. R. Jones, C. L. Shear, H. H. Whetzel.

Associate Editors: G. P. Clinton, E. W. Freeman, H. T. Güssow, F. D. Heald, Haven Metcalf, W. A. Orton, W. M. Scott, A. D. Selby, Erwin F. Smith, Ralph E. Smith, F. L. Stevens, L. M. Thaxter.

Business Manager: Donald Reddick.

Stevens and Hall have described (Bot. Gaz. 50: 460-463. 1910) three new species of *Claviceps*, as follows: *Claviceps Paspali*, *Claviceps Rolfsii*, and *Claviceps Tripsaci*. The first two occur on species of *Paspalum* and differ in the length of stipe and in the size of the perithecia, asci, and spores. Both are associated with what has been known as *Sclerotium Paspali* Schw., two species probably having been included under the same name. *Claviceps Tripsaci* occurs on *Tripsacum dactyloides* L.